

## THEY GET A MILLION.

The Appropriation for Mississippi River Improvement Finally Passed.

Ex-Senator Kellogg Denies Imputations and Demands Investigation.

The Senate Deals with Public Health, Temperance, and the Currency.

The House Discusses the Patent Law, but Defers Action.

## THE STATE.

The chair laid before the senate a message from the President transmitting a letter from the secretary of state of Pennsylvania, inclosing a copy of an act providing for the preservation and disposition of the marine hospital at Erie, and tendering the hospital to the United States government as a soldiers and sailors' home.

Also, a message transmitting a communication from the secretary of the interior suggesting further action by congress relating to the granting of leases of bath houses at the Hot Springs reservation, Arkansas.

Also, the following memorials:

From the American Public Health association, relating to health in the United States.

From William F. Noyes, now a member of the house of representatives, relating to statements contained in papers accompanying a bill introduced by the secretary of the interior, dated Dec. 13, 1883, on the subject of the Texas and Galveston Railroad company, of its land grants to the San Joaquin Railroad company, and of the connection with the Western Union Telegraph company to wear out its opponents had rested on the question of the patent of the Morse telegraph.

Mr. Noyes thought that Mr. Anderson's speech was a big explosion with a little powder. The sole object of the bill was that an American inventor who applied for a patent in a foreign country, and obtained it, should be allowed to apply for a patent in this country, and on the other hand he was in favor of drawing a line between that and the ability given to crystallize monopolies. It was a question whether the patent system should be so broad as to cover all inventions, or whether it should be limited to those which have not expired at the date of the passage of this act, and which could not be covered by any other patent, not being so limited on its face or in its grant as to expire at the same time with the foreign patent, or if there be more than one at the same time which would render the most recent term; but that should be no wider than the original, or extend any patent heretofore granted.

In speaking Mr. Anderson, of Kansas, said that probably three-fourths of the monopolies in the United States were granted under the patent system of the United States, and he wished to have it understood that it was heartily in favor of giving to an American inventor such a period of time as should give him full scope and freedom to work out his invention, and that he was in favor of giving a large amount of genuine time to the inventor, and that he was in favor of drawing a line between that and the ability given to crystallize monopolies. It was a question whether the patent system should be so broad as to cover all inventions, or whether it should be limited to those which have not expired at the date of the passage of this act, and which could not be covered by any other patent, not being so limited on its face or in its grant as to expire at the same time with the foreign patent, or if there be more than one at the same time which would render the most recent term; but that should be no wider than the original, or extend any patent heretofore granted.

Mr. Kellogg, of Michigan, denied all imputations with the transaction, denies all imputations on himself therein contained, and asks that an investigation be had. The matter was referred to a committee which was presented:

By Mr. Dolph: From the chamber of commerce of Astoria, Oregon, praying for an appropriation of \$200,000 for improving the entrance to the Columbia river. Mr. Dolph said the Columbia river is the second in importance in the United States. It drains, with its tributaries, an area of 305,000 square miles, and is navigable for 725 miles, and is the outlet for 1,000 miles of the navigable waters of the Missouri. The petition states that the commerce of the river is increasing at the rate of 2 per cent, annually, with a corresponding increase in tonnage.

By Mr. Blair: From the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of New Hampshire, praying for the appointment of a commission of inquiry relating to the liquor traffic. Also, from the National Temperance Union, of New York, for a constitutional amendment, prohibiting the manufacture or sale of alcoholic liquors as a beverage in the United States.

Similar petitions were presented by Miss Morris, from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Vermont; by Mr. Bayard, from the same organization in Delaware; by Mr. Miller, of New York, from the National Temperance Union, that state, and by Mr. Ladd, from the grain dealers' Temperance of Maine, representing 20,000 members.

The following bills were introduced—

By Mr. Butler: Authorizing the secretary of the treasury to issue to the postmaster general certificates of certain boxes deposited for safe keeping in the treasury vaults by the secretary of war.

The boxes, Mr. Butler said, contained miniatures, etc., which were entirely the owner's.

By Mr. Van Wyck: To provide reasonable rates of transportation of people over railroads aided by the issue of United States bonds and public lands. This bill, Mr. Van Wyck said, he did not introduce, but it was a similar character introduced by him a few days ago. The first bill was limited in its scope to the Union and Central Pacific railroads. The present bill, however, applies to all railroads, and is intended to aid all railroads in the United States which had received government lands. When the people of the United States gave enormous grants for the building of their railroads, lines to the west, it was on the assumption that there would be natural competition between these lines, but the wise purposes of the people and of congress had been defeated by the corporations, which had combined to stifle it, and were closing up between them the great empire stretching across the continent as effectually as the partition of Poland had been effected.

By Mr. Coggin: To provide for the issue of circulating notes to national banking associations. It provides that upon a deposit of United States bonds bearing interest in the manner required by law, any bank having association with the same shall be entitled to receive from the controller of the currency circulating notes not exceeding in amount the par value of the bonds deposited. Provided, That no time shall the total amount of notes issued by any association exceed the amount at such time actually paid in of its capital stock.

On the conclusion of the morning business, Mr. Coggin called up the bill regarding the application of \$200,000 yearly into effect a decree of the United States court awarding compensation for the seizure by the United States government in 1861 of the Spanish mail boat, the *Cerro de la Plata*. The bill was referred to a select committee.

The senate at 1 p. m. went into executive session. When the doors were reopened the senate, at 5:45 p. m., adjourned.

## THE HOUSE.

The speaker laid before the house the same message from the President, concerning the Marine hospital at Erie, Pa., which was read in the senate. Also, a communication from the secretary of the treasury in response to a house resolution in regard to the issue of gold and silver certificates. Referred.

Mr. Morse (by request) introduced a bill repealing the tax on extract of hamlock and other bark used for tanning. Referred.

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Mr. Skinner said he did not object to the purpose of the resolution, but thought it should go to a committee.

It was referred to the committee on expenditures in the department of justice.

Mr. Cox, of North Carolina, from the committee on foreign affairs, reported a resolution requesting the President to transmit to the house any correspondence of the foreign governments in regard to claims embodied in section 5 of the act of congress approved June 18, 1878.

Also, any correspondence relating to the new central post office in New York, proposed and referred to the department of justice.

Also, any correspondence with Mexico and Guatemala in relation to the boundary question between these republics. Adopted.

Mr. Bishop, of New Jersey, from the committee on pensions, reported a bill pensioning the sole surviving grandchild of Thomas Jefferson. Private calendar.

Mr. Gilder introduced a bill authorizing the secretary of the interior to sell any public documents of which the edition is not exhausted at the cost of the same. Referred.

Mr. Springer, chairman of the committee on postmaster general, introduced a resolution calling on the department of justice to prosecute the departmental contractors in the United States.

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Mr. Springer explained that it was the duty of his committee to inquire into the enforcement of the payment of money due the United States.

The resolution was adopted.

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The regular order being demanded, the speaker announced that he was on the motion made yesterday to adjourn, and that the committee on postmaster general, of the navy for information as to what progress has been made in the compilation of the union and confederate naval records of the war of the rebellion, and what steps are necessary to secure their speedy publication. Adopted.

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